

Mr. Dan Ruben,

Firstly, thank you so much for giving me the funds and opportunity to broaden my legal experience and make a difference in the lives of so many. My experience this summer working at Legal Aid of N.C. has been interesting and very rewarding.

Since working here, I have represented two clients in their unemployment hearings. One client was injured at work and was wrongly fired after he filed worker's compensation. I prepared for his in-person unemployment hearing by creating a list of questions for him to answer concerning his job and termination. I spent an hour interviewing the client to prepare him for the unemployment hearing. A few days after the hearing I received a letter stating that I had won my case! It was extremely rewarding to see my client's smile as he was certain he would be receiving benefits and did not have to worry about his finances for some weeks.

I had another client I represented in an unemployment hearing. This client had been working for an unemployment agency until they could not find him work. The client followed the employer's policies, but was denied unemployment. I met with the client and interviewed him and asked him questions that I had prepared and would ask during his hearing. By doing this, I better prepared my client for the hearing so he would be prepared and not nervous. In the phone hearing, the client answered my questions and I discredited the employer by raising doubt on their evidence. A week later I received the news that I had won my case and my client had begun receiving his unemployment benefits. I could not have been happier for him, as he was in desperate need for financial help after he could not find a job.

In addition to representing clients at unemployment hearings, I have been able to prepare many wills, power of attorney documents, interrogatories, and affidavits. The most interesting cases I have seen have been domestic violence and housing cases. It amazes me the living conditions that our clients endure just to have a place to call home; however, it is rewarding to know that we can accept the case and help the client.

Furthermore, I have researched laws for cases and researched the proposed guidelines for federal acknowledgment for Indian tribes in North Carolina. I have also attended court numerous times to observe cases and have conducted community education by teaching the public how to represent themselves in divorce and custody hearings.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,
Lydia Locklear